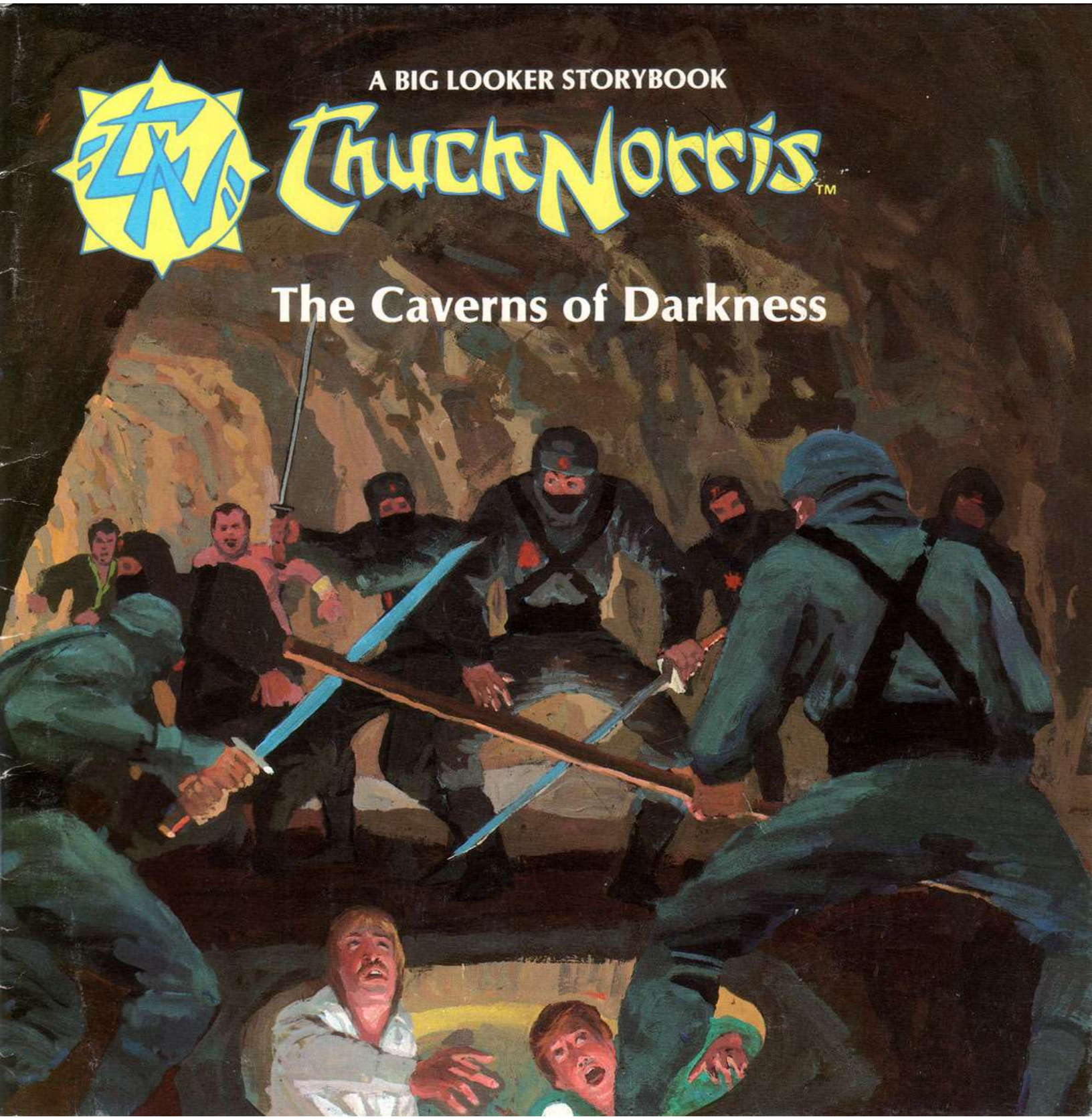
A BIG LOOKER STORYBOOK

Chuck Norris™

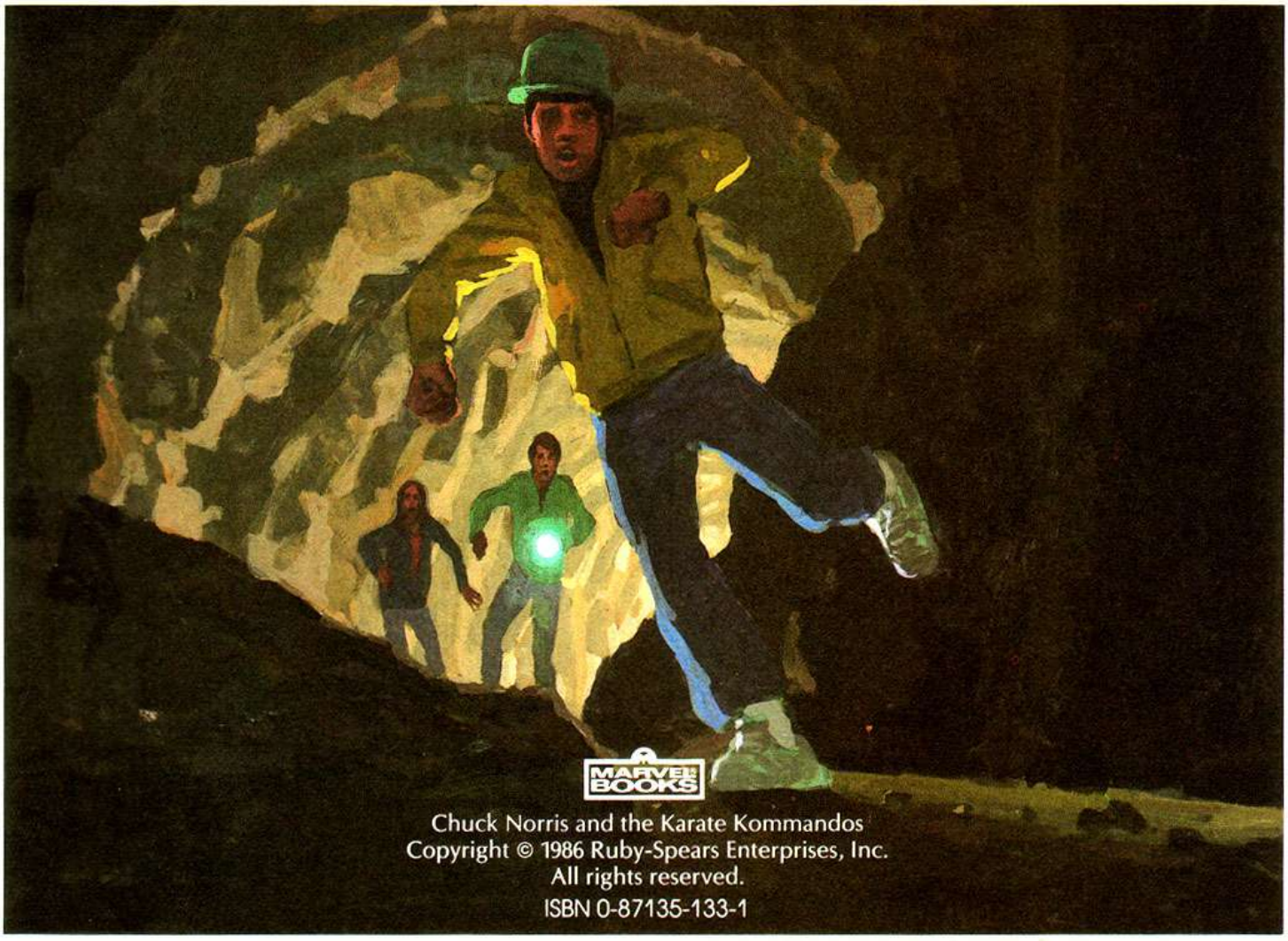
The Caverns of Darkness



Chuck Norris and the Karate Kommandos™

The Caverns of Darkness

Written by Jack C. Harris Illustrated by William Low



Chuck Norris and the Karate Kommandos
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Early one morning, the Karate Kommandos sat eating breakfast together at Chuck Norris's California home. Everyone was finished except Tabe, who had already eaten twice as much as the others—and was still going strong!

"Sumo wrestlers have to eat a lot to stay in shape," he said between mouthfuls.

"At this rate, it will be noon before we're done with breakfast," said Kimo laughing. Tabe shrugged and ate four more eggs.

"We're going to explore the Caverns of Darkness today," said Too Much.

"And we'd better get started soon, if we're going to see much," said Pepper getting up from the table.

"Be careful," warned Chuck. "Those caves are safe enough, but it's easy to get lost in them."

"We'll be back for lunch," said Reed as he, Too Much, and Pepper picked up their things and left.

The Caverns of Darkness were about three miles from Chuck's house. Reed, Pepper, and Too Much had a good hike there.

"Wow, it sure is dark in there," said Too Much as they stood before the entrance to the Caverns. "This place really lives up to its name."

"I've got the flashlight," said Reed shining it into the cave.

"Time to explore!" said Pepper, as they entered the dark cave.

"Be careful," Reed warned Too Much. "Stay near the light. This place could be dangerous."

"I'm not scared," boasted Too Much as he ran on ahead into the dark.

"Too Much!" yelled Pepper. "Come back!"

"Don't worry," Too Much called back to her. "Hey, I think I've found something. Hurry up and..." Suddenly the cave was silent.

"Too Much?" shouted Reed. There was no answer. "Where are you?" he cried.

"He's vanished!" gasped Pepper. They began searching, shining the light in every direction. There was no sign of Too Much.

"Reed, look!" shouted Pepper. She pointed to something on the ground. It was a black glove. And on it was the sign of the Cult of the Klaw.

"The Cult of the Klaw!" said Reed. "This is bad news. Too Much must have found something—or someone."

"Look over here," said Pepper. "This round hole looks man-made. They must have taken Too Much this way. But what would the Cult of the Klaw be doing here?"

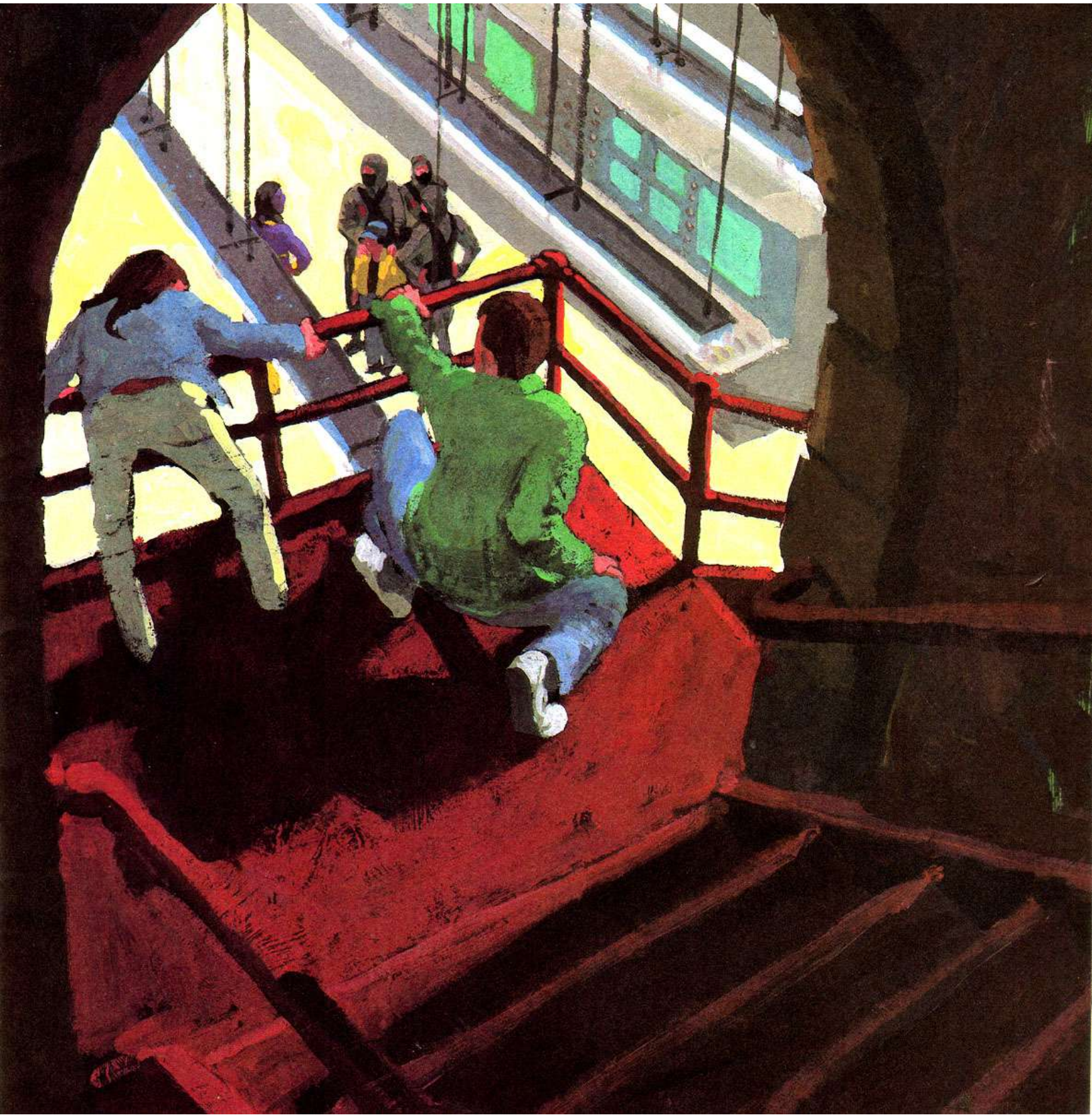
"Maybe they're planning to attack Uncle Chuck and the Karate Kommandos from the caves. We've got to find out what's going on and stop them."

"And find Too Much," added Pepper. "Let's go!"

Reed and Pepper carefully climbed down the ladder into the round hole. When they reached the bottom, they heard the sound of machines.

"Look," ordered Pepper, stopping just outside a well-lit cavern.

"It's Super Ninja!" whispered Reed. "And he's got Too Much!"



Super Ninja gave a low laugh. "So Norris is sending spies into the caves, is he? I don't know how he discovered we were here but since he has, I'll give him a demonstration of our new underground missile base. I will destroy him in his own home! If only Norris knew what I've planned..."

But Chuck didn't know. He wasn't even thinking about Klaw. He was worried about Pepper, Reed, and Too Much. "Reed said they'd be back for lunch," he told Kimo and Tabe. "But it's getting late. Maybe I ought to go up to the caves and take a look around."

"Do you want company?" offered Tabe.

"Thanks," said Chuck, getting into his Corvette. "But I can probably handle this on my own."

"Okay," said Kimo. "We'll keep an eye on the communications room just in case you need us."

Super Ninja was concentrating on a computer console.

"He's setting coordinates for some kind of missile system," Pepper whispered to her brother. "And the target is...Uncle Chuck's house!"

"If I could get to that radio over there, I could send a message to warn Chuck," said Reed.

On one side of the computer, Too Much stood guarded by two Klaw Ninjas. "Ooooh!" he cried suddenly, and dropped to the ground as if he'd been hurt. As the Ninjas bent to see what was wrong with their captive, Too Much rolled away and ran for the tunnel.

With a shout the Ninjas were after him. But they weren't expecting Pepper and Reed at the cavern entrance.

"Boy, am I glad to see you!" shouted Too Much.

"Quick, get to the radio and warn Chuck about the missile! We can take care of these goons," cried Pepper as she sent a Ninja flying with a sidekick.

While Pepper and Reed were busy fighting the Ninjas, Chuck arrived at the Caverns of Darkness. Searching with his flashlight he soon came to the round hole.

"This looks suspicious," said Chuck. "If there's trouble, I'll find it down this hole." He climbed down the hole. As he walked down the tunnel he saw light from the control room cavern. Then he heard the sounds of fighting. "It looks like there's more to this than meets the eye. Pepper, Reed, and Too Much have wandered into some kind of a trap!"

"Chuck!" yelled Pepper when she saw him enter the control room. "Stop Super Ninja before he launches the missile!"

Tabe and Kimo waited in Chuck's communications room. Over an hour had passed, and there had been no word from him. Tabe was stretching out and Kimo was polishing one of his swords when the computer console began to flash.

"A coded message!" cried Tabe. Quickly, he decoded it. "It's from Too Much," he told Kimo. "It says: Leave the ranch. Klaw missile base in Caverns of Darkness. Target—Chuck's house!"

"Let's go," said Kimo. "They'll need our help!"

In no time at all, he and Tabe were in the chopper, bound for the Caverns of Darkness.

In the Caverns of Darkness, Super Ninja turned from the missile controls to face his arch-enemy. "Norris!" he said furiously. "If you won't be destroyed by my missile, I'll have to destroy you myself!"

Super Ninja lunged at Chuck, his sword drawn, but Chuck dodged the blow and knocked the sword from his opponent's hand with a lightning-fast kick.

Moments later, Chuck had Super Ninja pinned. "It's over now," he told him.

"Not so fast, Norris," hissed a Ninja. His laser gun was pointed at Chuck. Another Ninja held a gun on Pepper and Reed. It looked like the fight was over.

"No!" Super Ninja shouted to his men. "Don't shoot!" But it was too late. The first Ninja fired. Chuck hit the floor and rolled away from the laser beam. The others watched in amazement as the beam hit the cave wall, bounced to the ceiling, then bounced from one wall to another. In seconds the room was filled with a web of deadly beams.

There was a hiss as the laser hit the console—the computer was short circuiting. And that was only the first problem. The ceiling of the cavern was beginning to crack.

"That laser is going to bring the cave down on us!" cried Pepper.

"Let's get out of here!" shouted Chuck, but not before he noticed that in the confusion, Super Ninja had disappeared!

With Too Much in the lead, the Karate Kommandos raced through the caverns toward the hole at the end of the tunnel. Behind them they heard explosions. The cave shook violently.

"Up the ladder, quick!" ordered Chuck, giving Too Much a boost. "These caverns are going to collapse any minute!"

But in the cave above, a surprise awaited the Karate Kommandos. The cave was filled with Klaw Ninjas!

"We'll have to fight our way out!" yelled Chuck.

"At least we've got help," said Reed with a grin. Kimo and Tabe had already begun the fight.

The other Kommandos went into action, driving the Ninjas back, making their way toward the mouth of the cave.

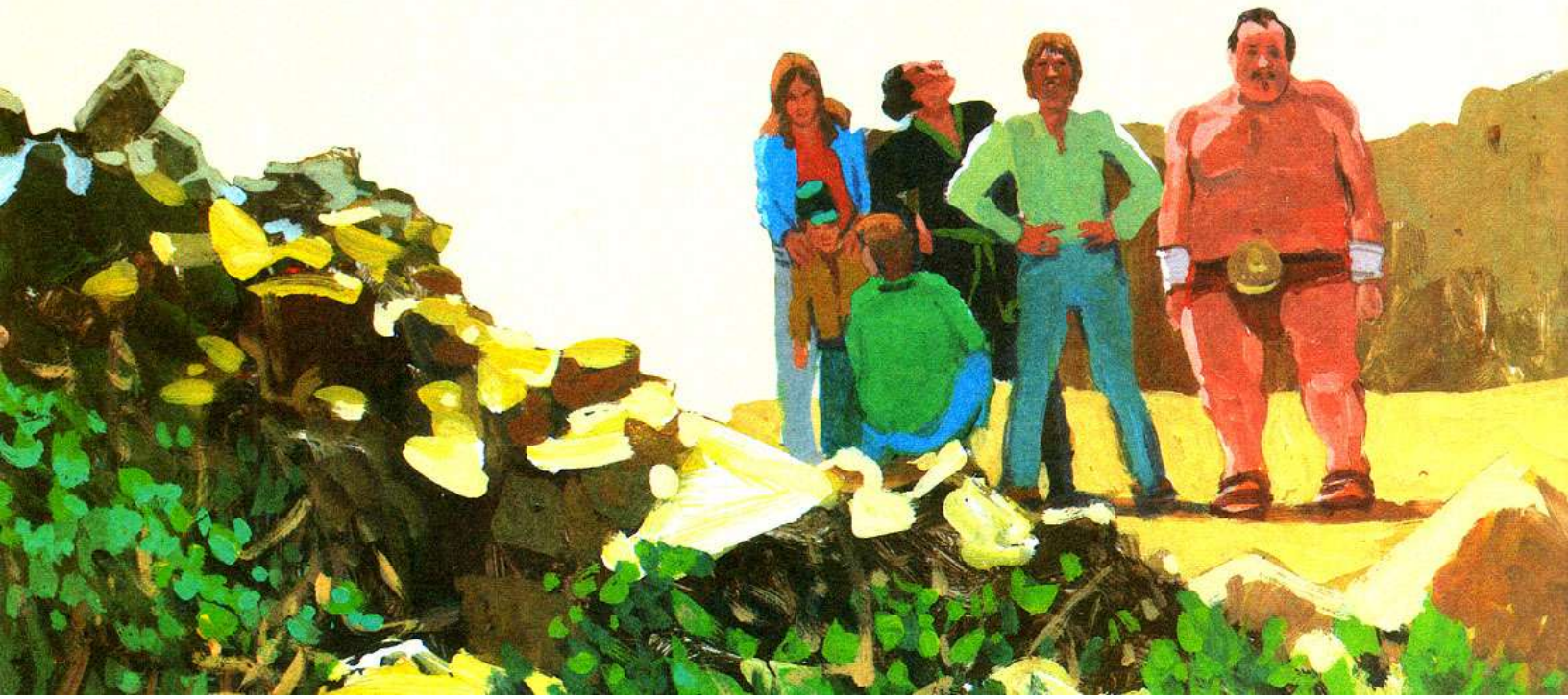
The battle was fierce but swift. It was only moments before Chuck and his friends emerged from the Caverns of Darkness. As Chuck turned to make sure that everyone had gotten out safely, a huge explosion rocked the ground—and the Caverns of Darkness collapsed!

"I can't believe it," said Too Much as the dust from the caverns filled the air.

Chuck looked down at him with a smile. "Thanks to your trip to explore the Caverns of Darkness," he said, "we stopped the Cult of the Klaw from setting up that missile base."

"There sure was a lot more in those caves than I ever expected!" Too Much said. "But that's the end of Super Ninja! Isn't it?"

"I wouldn't be too sure about that," answered Chuck, looking back at the rubble that had been the Caverns. "Somehow, he always manages to come back. But today the victory is ours."



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